

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 14, 2008, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above claim amendments and following remarks. In the present application, claims 1, 22-24, 26, and 32 are amended. Claims 4-6, 8-14, 16-21, 31, 33, and 37-41 are canceled. Claims 1-2, 7, 15, 22-24, 26-30, 32, and 34-36 are pending. No new matter has been added.

It is believed that the amendments and remarks in the present application place the application in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is requested.

Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview taking place with Applicants' representatives on December 9, 2008. At the interview, generally claim 1 and possible amendments placing the claims in condition for allowance were discussed. It is believed that the present response places each of the currently pending claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 20 as reciting a "third signature" with no recitation of a second signature. Applicants note that claims 20-21 are canceled in the present response, and the limitations of these claims are incorporated in amended claim 1, absent the objectionable "third" language. Applicants assert that claim 1 as amended would not be subject to this objection, and claims 20-21 are canceled (with claims 22-24 amended to correct dependency accordingly). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

First, in the Office Action, claims 7, 15, 34, and 35 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the finding of this allowable subject matter, and note that these claims remain unchanged in this response.

Second, in the Office Action, claims 9, 12, 13, 14, 16-19, 21-24, 31 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the finding of allowable subject matter, and make the following observations with respect to the currently pending claims.

First, Applicants note that the subject matter of claim 21 (and claim 20, from which it depends) is incorporated into claim 1, thereby rendering that claim and those depending therefrom allowable. This includes objected claims 22-24.

Second, the subject matter of claim 31 is incorporated into independent claim 26, thereby rendering that claim and those depending therefrom (claims 27-30) allowable.

Third, the subject matter of claim 33 is incorporated into independent claim 32, thereby rendering that claim allowable.

Fourth, claims 9, 12, 13, 14, and 16-19 are canceled in the present response. Applicants reserve the right to pursue similar claims in a subsequent continuation patent application.

In light of these observations, Applicants note that each of these objected to claims now either (1) is canceled, (2) depends from, or (3) has been incorporated into an allowable independent claim. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to these claims is requested, alongside allowance of the pending claims.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, claims 26-30, 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Buch et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0217165, hereinafter “Buch”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and do not accede to the characterization of the reference as applied to these claims or the characterizations of the claims.

A. Claims 26-30

Independent claim 26 is amended in the present response to incorporate the limitations of claim 31, and therefore contains allowable subject matter, as noted in the Office Action. Claim 31 is canceled in the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 26 is now in condition for allowance, at least because Buch fails to disclose “identifying a time stamp containing data representing a date and time of creation for the session key and appending the time stamp to the session key, wherein encrypting the session key includes encrypting the session key and the time stamp” in combination with the other elements of that claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this claim, and claims 27-30 which depend therefrom.

B. Claims 40-41

Claims 40-41 are canceled herein to place the present application in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these or different claims related to similar subject matter in a subsequent continuation patent application.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 103

A. Claims 1, 2, 4-6

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buch et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0217165, hereinafter “Buch”) in view of Shores et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,142,537, hereinafter “Shores”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and do not accede to the characterization of the references or claims as made in the Office Action.

In the present response, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of prior claims 20-21, now canceled. Independent claim 1 is therefore allowable over the combination of Buch and Shores, at least because the combination of Buch and Shores fails to

disclose or suggest, in combination with the other elements of claim 1, at least “determining a RECORD-ROUTE header of the SIP request; . . . wherein generating the signature includes generating the signature based upon at least a portion of the RECORD-ROUTE header of the SIP request; wherein inserting the signature includes inserting the signature into a RECORD-ROUTE header of the SIP node.” Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and inherits each of the limitations of that claim. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this claim for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claims 4-6 and 8 are canceled in the present response, rendering the rejection of those claims moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue similar claims in a subsequent continuation patent application.

B. Claims 11 and 20

In the Office Action, claims 11 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buch and Shores as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Donovan (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,143, hereinafter “Donovan”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and do not accede to the characterization of the references or claims as made in the Office Action.

Claim 11 is canceled in the present response, therefore rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue such a claim in a subsequent continuation application, but respectfully observe that the rejection is rendered moot in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 20 is also canceled in the present response, and the limitations of that claim (as well as former claim 21) are now incorporated into claim 1. Applicants assert that this rejection is now rendered moot, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

C. Claim 10

In the Office Action, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buch and Shores as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Tsuzuki et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0246991, hereinafter "Tsuzuki"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and do not accede to the characterization of the references or claims as made in the Office Action.

Claim 10 is canceled in the present response, therefore rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue such a claim in a subsequent continuation application, but respectfully observe that the rejection is rendered moot in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

D. Claims 37-39

In the Office Action, claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buch et al. in view of Bobde et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0005280, hereinafter "Bobde"). Claims 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buch et al. and Bobde as applied to claim 37 above, and further in view of Tsuzuki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and do not accede to the characterization of the references or claims as made in the Office Action.

Applicants note that claims 37-39 are canceled in the present response, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection, and reserve the right to pursue similar claims in a subsequent continuation patent application.

F. Claims 32 and 36

In the Office Action, claims 32 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buch in view of Donovan. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and do not accede to the characterization of the references or claims as made in the Office Action.

Independent claim 32 is amended in the present response to incorporate the limitations of former claim 33, now canceled. Claim 33 was determined in the Office Action to include allowable subject matter (see 10/14/08 Office Action, page 18). Applicants assert that the combination of Buch and Donovan fails at least to disclose "wherein the plurality of SIP headers comprises a plurality of VIA headers and the digital signature is generated based on all VIA headers in the SIP headers except a topmost VIA header" as recognized on page 18 of the Office Action (finding former claim 33 to include allowable subject matter). Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 32, and claim 36 which depends therefrom.

Conclusion

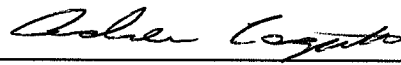
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: 12/15/2008


Andrew J. Lagatta
Reg. No. 62,529